

December Meetings

Dates & Times:

Matinee, 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 12

Evenings, 8:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, December 12 and 13

Place:

May Treat Morrison Auditorium

Speaker:

Raymond Pestrong

Subject:

"Earth Art"

"Earth Art", the creation of Raymond Pestrong and Richard Lambert, is a multi-media exploration of the complex inter-relationship between natural and manmade structures. It seeks to develop, as a sensory experience, the evolution of our landscape, and reflects on sources of stimulation for many of mankind's creations. (For example, the Transamerica Pyramid in San Francisco echoes the appearance of wind eroded sandstone.)

"Earth Art's" theme is positive and uplifting, reflecting a hopeful note for our relationship with the natural environment as both a dwelling place and as a model for artistic and engineering works. The program was developed initially as a teaching tool for geology courses but its appeal transcends the classroom and its wide acceptance by audiences throughout the U.S. indicates the profound interest held by so many in the environment.

Raymond Pestrong, a Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences, is professor of geology at San Francisco State University where he concentrates on courses in landscape evolution (geomorphology), environmental geology, and physical geology. Dick Lambert is an instructor of geology at Skyline College in San Bruno. He is also deeply involved in multi-media and has just completed a well received program on the 1906 earthquake.

"Earth Art" promises to be a popular Christmas-time program - an inspired look at natural and manmade environments set to music. As usual your membership card admits you through the main entrance at Cowell Hall for the evening presentations and through both Cowell Hall and Wattis

Hall entrances for the matinee. You will be asked to show your membership card at the auditorium door at the afternoon meeting on December 12.

Special Exhibits

This is the final month for "**Shakespeare: The Globe and The World**", the exhibition drawn from the world-famous collection of the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. This exhibition was made possible by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Exxon Corporation, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. It will be open through December 31 at the Academy. (See "Special Events" for more Shakespeare activities.)

A new exhibit entitled, **Monumental Stone Carvings of the Ancient Maya** opened last month in Lower Cowell Hall Gallery with over 50 photographs by Rufus Diamant of carvings in the jungles of Southern Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras. Mr. Diamant spent three years observing and photographing in this part of the world and his work interprets the human, religious and scientific aspects of the Mayan culture. A special section in the exhibit deals with Mayan hieroglyphics and their ancient calendar known to be more perfect than the Gregorian calendar. Through May 15, 1980.

Continuing exhibits include **Nudibranchs: Gaudy Slugs of the Sea** in the Atholl McBean Gallery; **John Adair: Southwest Images** in the Patricia Price Peterson Gallery; **New Botanical Prints by Henry Evans** in the Cowell Hall Galleries; and **Voyagers to Jupiter** in Science Hall outside the planetarium.

Members: Please Note!!!!

United Way Campaign contributions can now be to an agency of your choice: Please consider making a gift to the Academy through your contribution to the United Way of the Bay Area.

Morrison Planetarium

One of the most popular Christmas traditions in San Francisco takes place at the Morrison Planetarium with the 26th annual presentation of **The Christmas Star**, a trip back in time to the magical night when the Star of Bethlehem guided the Three Wise Men to the manger.

See **The Christmas Star** through January 6, 1980 at the following times:

Monday through Friday at 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

Weekends at 12:30, 2:00 and 3:30 p.m.

Week of December 17 through 21 at 12:30, 2:00 and 3:30 p.m.

December 24 at 12:30, 2:00 and 3:30 p.m.

December 26, 27, 28 and January 1, at 11:00 a.m., 12:30, 2:00 and 3:30 p.m.

NOTE: There are no shows on Christmas Day.

Laserium

Enjoy the current Laserium light concerts in the Morrison Planetarium. See **Laserium Light Years** featuring the music of the 50's, 60's and 70's, and **Laserium Starship** at the following times this month.

Starship: Friday: 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 p.m.

A special 5:00 p.m. show can be seen on the following dates:
December 26, 27, 28, 31.

Light Years

Saturday: 5:00, 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 p.m.

Sunday: 5:00, 7:30 and 9:00 p.m.

An added show can be seen Tuesday, January 1 at 5:00 p.m.

There will be no shows on Monday, December 24 or Tuesday, December 25.

Tickets are available through all BASS outlets and remaining tickets go on sale at the planetarium box office one-half hour before show time. Admission to all performances is \$3.25.



Ralph Chesse with Macbeth and a witch

If you've always thought that puppets are just kid stuff take another look, because here comes "Macbeth", a full scale marionette production, using live actors, and the timeless expertise of Ralph Chesse who has been called the Dean of American puppeteers. In 1927 Chesse introduced San Francisco theater-goers to a marionette version of "Hamlet" which was hailed by local critics as "a production of rare beauty"; one which "captured the mood of Shakespearean tragedy more completely than any of the numerous stage productions" of this famous play. The most exciting element of the production is described by Ralph Chesse himself: "During the hours that the play is in progress the audience lives within the dimensions of the puppet stage. More than that, even when the real world intervenes, the illusion prevails."

And now the critical question: What is the Illusion and how is it created? "First of all, consider the marionette. The cardinal rule for the marionette is that he must not be 'life-like'. If you try to carve realistic characters you end up with little wooden dolls that twist and turn but never actually come to life. By imitating the human you invite a direct comparison with Nature, and the marionette will always suffer from the

comparison. Instead, by carving a creative mask, a three dimensional sketch with a broad outline of what each figure should look like with exaggerated character traits, I let the audiences fill the details," states Mr. Chesse.

One of his later marionette plays, "Macbeth", has been revived and is being presented at the California Academy of Sciences this Christmas season by the sons of Ralph Chesse, Dion and Bruce, who will play MacDuff and Macbeth respectively. Both are heavily involved in theater and puppetry themselves. Bruce, a puppeteer for over twenty-five years, worked with his father on the "Brother Buzz" television program which aired from 1952 to 1966 in the Bay Area. Dion's commitment to theater includes "Brother Buzz" and a lengthy career as an actor and director, his most recent effort being the direction of two productions at the Walnut Creek Performing Arts Center.

An amalgam of fine art, theater and puppetry lives in the strings of the "Macbeth" characters. It is a unique and exciting experience for audiences of all ages!

"Macbeth" will be shown at the California Academy of Sciences' Morrison Auditorium December 27 through December 31 at Noon and 4:00 p.m. each day, except for December 28 when only a Noon performance will be given. (You can also see "Macbeth" at the University of San Francisco beginning December 5 through 8 at 8:00 p.m. in the evenings.) Tickets are available through Ticketron (788-2828) or you can order tickets through the Public Information Office at the California Academy of Sciences. Cost is \$2.50 for adults and \$2.00 for students 17 and under. Send a check and specify the date and time you wish to attend to:

Macbeth
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, Ca. 94118

Other Shakespeare related events in December include:

December 1, 2:00 p.m.
Berkeley Shakespeare Festival presents the lecture/demonstration on **The Elizabethan Woman**.

December 1, 3:30 p.m.
An Elizabethan Food Fair, lecture and a taste of some 16th century morsels by the Berkeley Shakespeare Festival.

December 2, 2:00 p.m.
Musical Comedy in Elizabethan & Jacobean England presented by the San Francisco Early Music Society.

December 6, 7:00 p.m., repeated on December 8, 1:00 p.m.
A.C.T. lecture/demonstration **Creating a Scene** - how Shakespearean actors translate the bard from page to stage.

December 8, 2:00 p.m.
Exploring the New World, slide lecture by the Berkeley Shakespeare Festival.

December 15, 10:00 a.m.
Elizabethan Science & Magic at the Morrison Planetarium by Berkeley Shakespeare Festival actors and Dr. Alan Friedman, Director of Lawrence Hall of Science Planetarium.

Also in December be sure to see a visit with the **Time Traveller**, a one man performance by Richard Bagwell from 11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., December 5, 6 and 26 in **Shakespeare: The Globe and the World**. Playing Will Kemp, Shakespeare's fellow actor and partner in the Globe, Mr. Bagwell brings the age of Queen Elizabeth to life with anecdotes and some lively tunes on the tabor-and-pipe (the period's "one man band"). His presentation is amusing and educational to all ages and should not be missed! Of course, it's free of charge.

Challenge '80

The National Endowment for the Arts has granted the California Academy of Sciences a highly coveted Challenge Grant. The Academy will receive \$400,000 from the Endowment when the grant is matched 3:1; that means the Academy must raise \$1,200,000 in new and increased funds over the next three years on the basis of \$1 from the NEA for each \$3 raised in community funds. Your membership (or gift memberships) will earn matching dollars on this basis, as will all gifts and donations. These new funds will be used to increase the Academy's endowment in order to provide for future growth of museum programs and the expansion of the scientific departments, as well as to offset the effects of inflation on general operations. All donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. For further information, please call the Development Office at (415) 221-4214.

BRING A FRIEND TO MEMBERSHIP

A hearty thank you to all you members who have recently recruited a new member for the Academy's "Friend-raising" campaign! Those of you who have yet to contact a friend regarding Academy membership (or those of you who are yourselves relatively new members) are urged to take advantage of the Christmas season and recruit a member as a present to the Academy, or give a membership as a gift for a friend.

Either way, our campaign *Bring a Friend to Membership* - for each Academy member personally to recruit a new member - is still far short of its goal. This campaign can only be successful if **you** - our present members - help in this easy manner.

If you need more information or brochures and application envelopes, please do not hesitate to call the Membership Office at 221-4214.

Thank You and Happy Holidays!!!!

Education and Travel Notes

Early in December members will receive information describing Academy activities for the winter/spring months. Separate categories for **Adult Courses**, **California Study Tours**, and **Academy Expeditions** will give details and registration procedures.

To provide members with the greatest number of activities from which to choose, it will be necessary for participants to mail in the registration forms with a separate check for each activity. Notice of registration and a letter of confirmation will be sent to you as quickly as possible. Telephone reservations can no longer be accepted.

We are looking forward to an exciting program this next winter/spring and hope that you will be able to join us in the classroom or field for an Academy adventure.

Baja California Gray Whale Expedition February 5-13

Join fellow Academy members aboard the **Qualifier 105** for a nine-day cruise along the west coast of Baja California to follow the migration of the giant California gray whales. Led by naturalist Walt Anderson, passengers will visit San Benitos Islands, San Ignacio Lagoon, Cedros Island and San Martin Island. There will be numerous opportunities to observe the abundant wildlife of this fascinating area. Cost is approximately \$700 from San Diego. Contact Nature Expeditions International for information at (415) 328-6572.

Sri Lanka, India, Nepal and Kashmir February 11-March 20

This exciting Asian adventure begins with a journey to Yellapur in Goa to view a total eclipse of the sun. Participants then journey to Sri Lanka to enjoy its exquisite pastoral settings and ancient civilizations; to India to observe wildlife, the cities of Bombay, Delhi Agra and the Taj Mahal; to Nepal for game-viewing from elephant back; and to Kashmir where participants stay aboard luxury houseboats on Dal Lake. Cost, including airfare, is \$4350. For information, please call Siemer & Hand, Ltd. at (415) 788-7186.

Pueblo Country II, Northeast Arizona June 6-15

Dr. Dorothy Washburn, Chairman of the Academy's Anthropology Department, leads this tour which focuses on the ancient native American cultures of Northeast Arizona. Participants will visit museums, prehistoric living sites and areas of spectacular scenic beauty. Highlights include the Hopi Mesas, the Hopi Cultural Center, Canyon de Chelly, Monument Valley, the Grand Canyon and the Museums of Northern Arizona. For information, please call Gulliver's Travels at (415) 346-4400.

Alaska July 11-26

Academy members will spend two weeks observing the abundant wildlife and magnificent scenery of Alaska, America's "last frontier". A cruise to the Columbia Glacier, five days of study and exploration at Mt. McKinley National Park, a visit to the "Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes" in Katmai National Monument and a three-day stay in fabulous Glacier Bay are but a few highlights of this exciting Academy adventure. Dr. and Mrs. Robert T. Orr will lead the tour. For information, please call Siemer & Hand, Ltd. at (415) 788-7186.

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New Members of the Academy

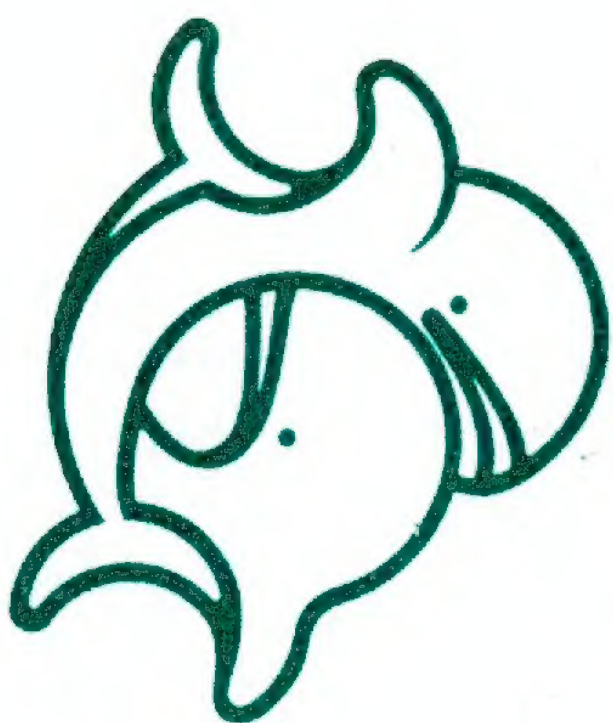
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